

Contact details for: T/SOR/6/1/6

Professor John M'Beth:

Terry Adie:

Jim & Sheila Matheson:

Jae ? (Who had been the Headmaster
at Barrisfield).

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Barrowfield Free School

<http://www.hiddenglasgow.com/forums/viewtopic.php?f=3&t=6011>

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Barrowfield Free School

by **dimairt**

Posted: **Thu May 03, 2007 10:47 am**

I'm looking for information on Barrowfield Free School, a short-lived educational experiment in the early 1970s.

I visited it after some of the "teachers" and "pupils" - they didn't use such terms themselves - came to speak to us at Jordanhill. They brought some of their counterparts from the Liverpool Free School.

It was all a bit hippy-idealism but I think a lecturer at Jordanhill - John McBeth? - was involved in it.

The real schools in Barrowfield did enjoy a respite though from having to deal with their usual trouble-makers by encouraging them to go to the Free School instead on the basis that there were no lessons, timetables or belting.

Given that it was so informal, it's unlikely that we have any records here at the Mitchell. Anyone?

Le dùrachd,
Dimairt

by **dimairt**

Posted: **Thu May 03, 2007 5:24 pm**

Well knock me down with a feather! Two of my colleagues worked at the Free School; thankfully their memories are clearer than mine.

Strathclyde Region donated the premises and the school was funded by the old Manpower Services Commission in 1976 to research alternative approaches to schooling. The project gave work to unemployed teachers - imagine that - and offered places to disaffected secondary pupils.

There was a "loose" curriculum, agreed with the 20 or so pupils and although there were links to the Liverpool Free School, it was, according to the colleagues, a lot less hippy-like. A report was produced, "Curriculum for Change", I think Strathclyde has a copy and one colleague has photos of the staff.

Le durachd,
Dimairt

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 by [dimairt](#) on Thu May 03, 2007 10:47 am

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Second Stripe



Posts: 212

Joined: Thu Jun 30, 2005 9:53 am

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